

Message Text

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FOR BEWT/TPD (ROBB)

FOR EUR/SOV (EDGAR)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, UR
SUBJECT: MEDICAL-SURGICAL S/ME (FEBRUARY 1978)

REF: MOSCOW 8841 AND PREVIOUS

1. COMATT AND COMOFF DISCUSSED MEDICAL-SURGICAL S/ME WITH DR. MEZHEVITINOV OF MIN HEALTH ON JUNE 22. MEZHEVITINOV SAID THAT ALL AREAS WE PROPOSED AS POSSIBLE S/ME THEMES IN OUR LETTER OF MAY 26 WERE POTENTIALLY INTERESTING BUT COMMENTED THAT IT HAD BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN MINISTRY SPECIALISTS TO RECOMMEND A SINGLE SPECIALIZED AREA OF FOCUS FOR EVENT. OF TOPICS SUGGESTED BY USCO HOWEVER, WHICH WE BASED ON LIST IN SILBERBERG/THOMPSON LETTER OF MAY 9, MEZHEVITINOV INDICATED THAT CARDIOLOGY OFFERED BEST PROSPECTS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE ECHOCARDIOGRAM EQUIPMENT INCLUDING CARDIAC MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGICAL EQUIPMENT. FEBRUARY 1978 DATE ACCEPTABLE TO MINISTRY AS PROVIDING SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.

2. MEZHEVITINOV DID NOT FEEL CARDIOLOGY THEME WOULD CONFLICT
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WITH TBILISI MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SPECIALIZED EXHIBIT ON SAME THEME SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR IN TBILISI AS THIS SHOW DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR LOCAL AUDIENCE IN CAUCASUS. MEZHEVITINOV SAID THAT RSFSR MINISTRY OF HEALTH WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED WITH TBILISI SHOW.

3. RECOMMEND PLANNING MEDICAL-SURGICAL S/ME FOR FEBRUARY

1978 WITH CARDIOLOGY AS BASIC THEME. WE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING IF THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING THIS EVENT WITH US-USSR HEALTH AGREEMENT WHICH WAS ACTIVE SUB-GROUP WORKING ON TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE. MEZHEVITINOV SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A LINK WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND BASED ON OUR PAST EXPERIENCE (E.G., WITH CLEAN WATER '77) BELIEVE IT COULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE DEGREE OF SOVIET INTEREST IN AND PARTICIPATION DURING EVENT.

4. WE WILL PLAN ON SENDING AN USCO OBSERVER TO SOVIET CHAMBER-SPONSORED CARDIOLOGY SHOW IN TBILISI OCT 6-17, 1977 TO SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT SOVIET PRIORITY NEEDS AND, HOPEFULLY, TO GLEAN INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE OF VALUE TO S/ME PARTICIPANTS IN SELECTING EQUIPMENT FOR DISPLAY AND IN PREPARING PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION FOUR MONTHS LATER IN USCO.
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